

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A screening method for ~~an antidiabetic~~ substances, comprising the steps of:

bringing a candidate substance to be screened into contact with a protein represented by the following (a) or (b):

(a) a protein consisting of the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2 which is capable of interacting with a thiazolidine derivative; or

(b) a protein consisting of an amino acid sequence derived from the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2 with the deletion, substitution, addition, or insertion of one ~~or~~ plural to thirty amino acids and interacting with the antidiabetic, wherein said protein retains the capability to interact with a thiazolidine derivative; and

~~detecting screening for the presence or absence of any~~ interaction between the candidate substance and the protein represented by (a) or (b).

10. – 22. (Cancelled)

23. (New) A screening method for substances, comprising the steps of:

bringing a candidate substance to be screened into contact with a protein comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2 which is capable of interacting with a thiazolidine derivative; and

screening for the presence or absence of any interaction between the candidate substance and the protein.

24. (New) A screening method according to claim 9, wherein said candidate substance is a low molecular weight compound.

25. (New) A screening method according to claim 9, wherein said candidate substance is a protein.

26. (New) A screening method according to claim 23, wherein said candidate substance is a low molecular weight compound.

27. (New) A screening method according to claim 23, wherein said candidate substance is a protein.

28. (New) A screening method according to claim 9, wherein said protein is immobilized on a substrate and said candidate substance is brought into contact with said immobilized protein in order to measure the capability of said candidate substance to interact with said protein.

29. (New) A screening method according to claim 23, wherein said protein is immobilized on a substrate and said candidate substance is brought into contact with said immobilized protein in order to measure the capability of said candidate substance to interact with said protein.

30. (New) A screening method according to claim 28, wherein said substrate is a chip.

31. **(New)** A screening method according to claim 29, wherein said substrate is a chip.
32. **(New)** A screening method according to claim 9, wherein said thiazolidine derivative is pioglitazone.
33. **(New)** A screening method according to claim 23, wherein said thiazolidine derivative is pioglitazone.
34. **(New)** A screening method according to claim 32, wherein said screening is performed by surface plasmon resonance.
35. **(New)** A screening method according to claim 33, wherein said screening is performed by surface plasmon resonance.
36. **(New)** A screening method according to claim 9, wherein said protein is protein (b) and wherein said deletion, substitution, addition or insertion is of one to ten amino acids.
37. **(New)** A screening method according to claim 9, wherein said protein is protein (b) and wherein said deletion, substitution, addition or insertion is of one to five amino acids.
38. **(New)** A screening method according to claim 9, wherein said protein is said protein (a).
39. **(New)** A screening method according to claim 32, wherein said protein is said protein (a).

40. (New) A screening method according to claim 32, wherein said candidate substance is a substance that has not yet been determined to be an antidiabetic.

41. (New) A screening method according to claim 33, wherein said candidate substance is a substance that has not yet been determined to be an antidiabetic.